

SOME MAMMAL REMAINS FOUND IN CAVES NEAR MARGARET RIVER

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During two visits made by the author in March, 1959, to limestone caves near Margaret River, a quantity of mammal bone material was collected, three series of which are worthy of record; two extending species ranges and the others representing a species rarely found in this State.

Macroderma gigas (Dobson)

Great Carnivorous Bat or Ghost Bat

The present living distribution of this bat extends through northern Australia from the Pilbara district to Roekhampton in Queensland (Finlayson, 1958). Previous records of bone remains in South Australia and Western Australia showed its past distribution to have been as far south as Yanchep on the west coast and Carrieton, near Port Augusta, in South Australia (Lundelius, 1957).

The collection of a skull of this animal in a cave in the southwest of this State extends even further its past southern distribution. Details of the specimen are as follows:—

Locality: Nannup Cave, near Baranup Mill, south of Margaret River, on the Caves Road.

Deposition: 20 in. below a sheet of dripstone varying in thickness from 2 in. to 3 in. in association with a quantity of bone representing the following marsupials (in order of abundance): *Bettongia penicillata*, *B. lesueurii*, *Setonix brachyurus*, *Trichosurus vulpecula*, *Sminthopsis crassicaudata*, *Dasyurus geoffroyi*, *Sarcophilus harrisii*, *Macropus giganteus*, *M. irma*, *Pseudocheirus occidentalis*.

Rodent material was common, but this was not identified.

Reptile (probably *Trachysaurus rugosus*) and bird remains were present, together with some possible artifacts.

Sarcophilus harrisii (Boitard)

Tasmanian Devil

Western Australian material representing this species has been collected previously from the Yonderup Cave, Yanchep; the Mammoth and Bride's Caves near Margaret River and Balladonia (Glauert, 1912, 1914, 1948).

A number of specimens consisting of 8 teeth, 2 maxillae and one almost complete left mandible were collected by the author.

Locality: Nannup Cave.

Deposition: At varying levels from 1 to 51 in. below a 2-3 in. thick dripstone floor in association with the species listed above.

Sminthopsis crassicaudata Gould

Fat-tailed Dunnart

The *Sminthopsis* material referred to above was at first attributed to *S. murina* Waterhouse, as more likely on distributional

grounds. However the jaws collected from Nannup Cave were compared with a series of both species named by Dr E. Lundelius and they agreed with *crassicaudata*, the identification being checked by Dr. A. R. Main and Mr. G. M. Storr. An imperfect jaw from Giant's Cave was probably that species also.

Lundelius' distribution map (1957: 178) gives the range of *S. crassicaudata* as east of the Darling scarp. The present records are the first, to my knowledge, of the occurrence of the species further west into the South-West and would suggest drier conditions when the creature existed there. This would be analogous to the record by Glauert (1948: 102) of the Dalgite, *Macrotis lagotis*, from the Mammoth Cave.

REFERENCES

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Salvinia rotundifolia in Western Australia.—*Salvinia rotundifolia* Willd., a free-floating, aquatic fern native to tropical America, is commonly cultivated as an ornamental in local aquaria and garden ponds. This fern was recently collected from a swamp on the Bunbury road near the townsite of Harvey, where it is growing in association with *Azolla filiculoides*. The *Salvinia* covers nearly the whole surface of this large swamp. This occurrence is thought to be the second known instance of the naturalisation of *Salvinia* in our countryside.

The Fresh-Water Group of the W.A. Naturalists' Club has recorded this collection in its check-list of aquatic plants. The Group would welcome specimens of aquatics from all parts of the State. Flowering and fruiting material is preferable, but sterile plants may often prove useful for records of distribution. Specimens may be mailed to Mr. G. G. Smith, Botany Department, University of W.A. They are best sent damp, in plastic wrapping, in a cardboard box. Aquatic plants, for the purpose of this check list, are taken to be flowering plants, ferns and stone-worts (Charales) occurring in fresh water, and those plants, such as sedges and rushes, which are restricted to margins of pools or swampy soils inundated for considerable periods each year. The Group hopes later to publish the check list with notes and illustrations.

—G. G. Smith, University of W.A.